

## SONG OF THE WHEEL.

Away from the office and desk at last,  
The business laundress runs,  
The rear of a city, hurrying past,  
The least, the weary, the gloom,  
To the glorious red of the sunset sky,  
The street, cold and dim,  
On the frozen road, my wheel and I,  
A daisy, rusty pair!

Push, push, two birds in a bush  
Are laughing to see me go by,  
On with a bound from the frozen ground,  
With never a way nor stop.

Over and over the pedals fly—  
"Come on!" to the twittering bird I cry,  
As over and over the wheels fly past,  
Over and over, still faster and faster,  
On through the ice cold stream of air,  
On where the road is frozen and bare.

Roll—roll—roll—roll—  
Silent and swift as a death freed soul,  
Glide—glide—  
On the smooth, black tide  
Of the ocean of light flowing in from the west,  
Over and over, and on without rest,  
Swifter and swifter, till over the crest  
Of the hill, and down to the valley below,  
Through the mists of the night, and the white of the snow—  
Now my foot falls, as breathless and slow,  
Up the steep hillside, the laborer and grind,  
Grinds—grinds—grinds—grinds—  
Across and across he turns and winds,  
Sand and gravel and rock hindered, without hope  
Or faith,  
No longer a soul, but a sin burdened wretch,  
Till, reaching the summit, he spurs the dark  
hill,  
And onward he plunges, for good or for ill,  
Over and onward, and onward and over,  
He rolls and he spins like a daisy seed over.

Roll—roll—roll—roll—  
Backward he flies to one dear goal,  
Where the whirling shall cease, and the rider  
shall rest,  
And soft trembling lips to my own shall be  
pressed,  
Slow—slow—slow—  
Slowly—slowly—let us go—  
What, darling, so far on the road to-night,  
To welcome us both with your eyes' sweet light,  
The wheel to hand, and the hand to the wheel,  
Be quiet, old fellow, we're safe at home,  
Willis Boyd Allen in Outing.

## END OF THE TRADE DOLLARS.

The Last "Melt" at the Assay Office.  
Samples Assaying—Results.  
On a recent Friday afternoon the last  
"melt" of the \$495,533 trade dollars  
which have been received at the United  
States assay office in Wall street, since  
the act of congress authorizing their purchase  
went into effect, was completed, and the  
lumped silver was poured into the molds  
and transformed into silver bricks,  
1,100 to 1,200 ounces in weight. A "melt"  
of silver at the assay office means a 3,000  
ounces. Therefore, in order to make way  
with the whole number of this 3,000,000  
of trade dollars about 700 "melts" were  
necessary. A reporter chanced to be  
present and stood near the crucible when  
these last representatives of a dead cur-  
rency slowly lost their individuality and  
became a shapeless glittering mass.  
When the last "melt" of the trade dol-  
lars had been poured into the molds and  
made into brick, the reporter observed  
that two small quantities of silver, of a  
grain or two each, were put into little re-  
ceptacles and sent to the assaying room.  
"These," explained Assistant Assayer J.  
T. Wilder, "are the samples for assaying.  
Two are taken from each melt." They  
are each assayed by different persons and  
their work must tally. If it does not the  
work is repeated. If the two assays still  
fail to agree the whole melt is repeated  
and fresh samples taken. Then the process  
is gone through with again.  
"The greater care is taken," said Mr.  
Wilder, "to guard against inaccuracies.  
The assaying is done by the Gay Lussac  
method. The exact amount of metal is  
weighed and dissolved in nitric acid.  
Then enough chlorine is added to precipi-  
tate precisely a drachm of pure silver.  
The solution is then shaken for three  
minutes in a shaking machine (run by  
steam), after which it is allowed to set-  
tle. More salt water is added, every  
atom of which is taken account of, and  
if any silver remains in solution it shows  
a slight cloudiness. The operation is re-  
peated until no cloudiness appears, show-  
ing that no silver remains in solution;  
that it has all been precipitated. Then  
a calculation is made as to the exact  
fineness of the samples of silver in the  
trade dollar, which is corrected by silver  
proofs. When the fineness is thoroughly  
ascertained it is stamped upon the bar by  
a brick which has been formed by the  
melted dollars, together with the value,  
weight, melt number and number of the  
bar. Then the bar or brick is sent to the  
"outer" brick dollar bricks are kept under  
a combination safe lock. The combina-  
tion of this, as well as of the other safe  
locks in the building, is known only to  
Superintendent Mason and one other  
trusted official."—New York Tribune.

## PROCESS OF CANE PLANTING.

Methods Pursued on a Louisiana Plan-  
tation—Work in the Stable Fields.  
Let us follow in their sequence the  
processes of planting. First is the un-  
covering with plows of the furrows in  
which the seed water has been carried  
since last fall, the pulling it out of the  
ground with great iron bars attached to  
poles, and the hauling it into carts. In  
the "hooking up" gang I observed two  
white men working with the negroes.  
They are systematic in the way they  
Bouff's country, the other side of the  
swamps. There are two others who are  
neither white nor negroes. They have  
a brown complexion, high cheek bones,  
regular features and straight black hair.  
These are "Manilla men"—natives of the  
Philippine Islands. The curious mixed  
population of lower Louisiana includes  
2,000 or 3,000 of them.  
Big, stout carts, with broad tired  
wheels, haul the cane from the field to  
the field prepared for planting. Here a  
gang of women called "droppers" take up  
the canes by handfuls and drop them in  
at intervals beside the furrows. They are  
placed in the furrows by other women  
called "planters." Another gang passes  
along the furrows and chops up the canes  
with rude hatchet like knives. The ob-  
ject of this is to give the work easy a  
chance to draw strength from the stock  
which would otherwise be sapped by  
these who have already a good start.  
About six tons of cane go to the planting  
of an acre. One acre of seed cane will  
plant three acres, and as the planting  
must be done every month of the year  
the crop average of a plantation must  
be given up to seed cane. When the  
seed cane is cut in the fall the stalks are  
laid between the rows of stubble and  
covered with a plow run on edge.  
After the canes are laid out, they are  
covered with plows or with a ma-  
chine called a rotary hoe, and the ground  
is then rolled to press the dirt close to the  
sprouting eyes. The first crop is called  
plant cane. Next year the cane sprouts  
from the stubble, and is called first  
ratons. The second year it sprouts  
again, and is called second ratons. The  
third year the stubble is plowed up and  
the ground sowed with field peas, which  
rejuvenates the land as clover does.  
New Orleans, it is customary to let the  
stubble ration but once. In Cuba it often

ratons six successive years, but the cane  
becomes constantly more woody and  
poorly susceptible to mites.  
In the winter fields the first spring  
work consists in "starting off," or mov-  
ing the dirt away from the roots of the  
cane with plows and hoes, to permit the  
light and air to hasten the sprouting of  
the canes. By the middle of April  
there should be a good stand of the  
young sprouts. Then the dirt is worked  
back toward the rows, and there is con-  
stant cultivation with the plow till after  
the 1st of July, when the crop is "mud  
in." No more work is done on it till the  
cutting begins in September. Now the  
cane is so high that a man driving a mule  
is lost to sight between the rows. Soon  
it will be tall enough to swallow up a  
man on horseback. The rows are usually  
seventy feet apart and always run paral-  
lel with the ditches—that is, from the  
river or bayou toward the swamp. July  
and August was formerly the time for  
cutting wood in the swamps to run the  
sugar mill during the grinding season.  
But now most plantations burn coal.  
The crop being "mud in," the planter feels  
that he can relax his vigilance, and if he  
has the means, he goes off to the north  
with his family to escape the two hottest  
months of the year in Louisiana and  
build up his health in a less equatorial  
climate. —E. V. Smalley in The Century.

## Description of a Naval Battle.

Those who have read the narrative of  
the battle between the Guerriere and the  
Constitution during the war of 1812 re-  
member that the American frigate, al-  
though it received three broadsides from  
the British man-of-war, did not fire until  
she had come to close quarters. Then  
her fire was so rapid that in a few min-  
utes the British ship struck her colors.  
The story of the capture, as spoken by a  
Frenchman speaking English, English  
speaking English, and English speaking  
English, is worth the main points of the en-  
gagement:  
"You see, I was come from Marseilles  
with sheep and wine and cognac; I was go-  
ing to Le Havre. By my God, Captain  
Dufosse, he come with zat Guerriere, and  
he tak' my sheep; and he tak' all my wine  
and my cognac in his sheep; me an' my  
crew he tak' prisoners an' he burn my  
sheep."  
"Pretty soon he say: 'Ah, Capitaine  
Dufosse, I go, look now fo' zat Yankee  
frigate, ze Constitution!' Pretty soon he  
see zat sheep. 'Ah, Capitaine Dufosse,'  
he say, 'I'm goin' tak' zat sheep in  
twenty minutes!'  
"Yen he come up with her he give con-  
broadside; her-r-r-r-r-r! her-r-r-r-r!  
he say nossing: he-r-r-r-r-r! ze other broad-  
side. Ze Yankee he no say nossing!  
"Tonnere! I say, 'what is zat?'  
"Her-r-r-r-r-r! from ze Guerriere. Zat  
Yankee he no say nossing.  
"Pretty soon when he came close—  
her-r-r-r-r-r! her-r-r-r-r-r! her-r-r-r-r-r!  
I go below. After awhile I come on  
deck. Capitaine Dufosse he say:  
"I say, 'Ah, he, Capitaine Dufosse! You  
say you goin' tak' zat Yankee frigate in  
twenty minutes! He tak' you in land!'  
—Yen's the comparison.

## Largest Ingenious Device.

A very ingenious device is now gener-  
ally adopted by druggists to prevent the  
fraudulent mistakes which occur at night  
in administering a dangerous medicine  
for a simple one. This is entirely ob-  
viate by putting up prescriptions con-  
taining powerful remedies or poisonous  
drugs in rough bottles as prickly as the  
coat of a gherkin. Any one rising in the  
dark is at once warned of his danger.  
Many lives have already been saved by  
this simple contrivance.—Globe-Demo-  
crat.

## Compliment from the Bereaved.

"I think Mr. Smith," said a friend of  
the deceased, "that your poor wife looked  
so lovely as she lay there at rest last."  
"Yes," replied the bereaved husband,  
"Mary always did look well in white."  
—The Epoch.

## A Museum of Religion.

Parisians, who, in these latter days, at  
least, are not remarkable for the depth of  
fervor of their religious feelings, are  
about to have a museum of religion. The  
founder of this remarkable and interest-  
ing institution is a M. Guinet. The  
building is in the Graco-Roman style of  
architecture, and with its pillared por-  
ticoes, its rotunda, its columns, and its  
carpeted floors, looks like an ancient temple.  
It is situated near the Trocadero, at the  
corner of the avenue d'Orléans. The edifice  
has been constructed after designs which  
were taken from the last mosaics discov-  
ered at Pompeii. The religions of Greece  
and Rome are most strongly represented,  
and in the northern gallery is an atrium  
which is to contain the altar of a pagan  
divinity copied from an original model.  
In the lateral galleries will be exhibited  
objects appertaining to the religions of  
Egypt, India and China. In a garden at-  
tached to the building there is to be  
placed a large conservatory and wide pond  
containing plants consecrated to religious  
uses.—Paris Cor. London Telegraph.

## Not the Consumptive's Paradise.

In a letter read before a recent meeting  
of the Berlin Antiquarian Society, Dr.  
Schliemann emphatically protests  
against the current belief in the salutary  
effect of the Egyptian climate in pulmon-  
ary troubles. He writes from Thebes:  
"Since my consumptive servant, Polos,  
whom I had taken with me in order to  
save his life, has died, and since I have  
observed in this city a number of con-  
sumptives whom the German Con-  
sulor Agent Trousseau, I knew twenty-eight  
years ago as robust men, I am entirely  
convinced of the belief that Egypt is the pa-  
radise of consumptives, and I would much  
rather advise such patients to go to the  
 Riviera than to Egypt."—Chicago News.

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**A CURE FOR POVERTY.**  
Richard A. Proctor's Plan for Preventing  
It—Everybody Easy—Too Much.  
Richard A. Proctor, in an article, "A  
Remedy for Poverty," in The Cosmopolitan  
Magazine, makes some original state-  
ments, which, if acted upon, might re-  
duce the expenses of every household and  
in so doing alleviate some of the poverty.  
He finds that the dietary of soldiers,  
sailors, artisans and prisoners in England  
averages 143 ounces of solid and liquid  
food consumed daily per man. This amount  
modern doctors agree is in excess  
of the real daily requirements of a  
healthy man or woman, and that they  
would thrive better and enjoy life better  
on half the quantity.  
During the Franco-Prussian war the  
government, desiring to have their sol-  
diers in prime condition, supplied to each  
man daily a sausage, weighing one  
pound, made of pea flour, lard, sage  
pound, and other ingredients. This was all the  
solid food the army had during the arduous  
campaign, yet they thrived and grew  
fat, and worked harder and better than  
when rations were more liberal.  
The improvement in health, if this  
forced regime is pursued, will be notice-  
able at once, and the expenses for eatables  
reduced almost one-half. It will also  
develop an appetite for plain and healthy  
things, and the poor man will take more  
delight in his frugal fare and experience  
more gastronomic pleasure in its con-  
sumption than the millionaire with all  
his epicurean delicacies at command.  
It is urged that few people know what  
an influence this food question has had  
in determining the amount of freedom  
that the bulk of our community enjoys.  
The difference in effects must be distin-  
guished between mere cheapness of food  
and abstinence in the use of food  
which enables men to put by a part of  
their earnings and so obtain independ-  
ence.

It is not desirable to live in a country  
where life can be supported for a mere  
nothing, because the incentive to labor is  
lost and the people become lazy and im-  
provident. In illustration of this, the  
Persians and Mexicans of old times lived  
chiefly on bananas, which grew as pro-  
lific as weeds. They thrived for awhile  
and multiplied, until the overproduction  
of population brought them to a most de-  
graded condition. They may not be able  
to become a capitalist by such savings as  
would result from halving—let us sup-  
pose—the amount of food that so many  
in all classes consume to their detriment,  
writes Mr. Proctor, but the savings of two  
or three dollars weekly in the expenses of  
the workingman and his family (sup-  
posed to include two or three other work-  
ers) would signify in the course of only a  
few years a sum which, to such a fam-  
ily, would be of great importance, not  
merely for what it could purchase, but  
for the anxiety that it would remove,  
even though for many years not a cent  
of it were touched, and it underwent no  
change but the increase resulting from  
the steady accumulation of interest.  
It may seem to many readers that all  
this is very true. It is nothing but the  
old lesson that we can most of us save a  
portion of our expenses, and that small  
savings, steadily made, mount up in the  
long run to large sums. There may be  
recognized, however, these points of novel-  
ty in what I have suggested:  
First, the diminished outlay for food is  
not only indicated as an effective remedy  
against poverty, but as a means of se-  
curing improved health and longer lasting  
life, and secondly, the indirect gain is  
scarcely less than these direct advantages,  
may, may even be regarded as greater, if  
we consider that life is scarcely worth liv-  
ing without freedom, and that there can  
be no full freedom even under the freest  
form of government where the bulk of  
the community is hampered in means.  
The effects, further, of the diminished  
struggle for life would be important, as  
depriving capital of much of that portion  
of its control over labor which must be  
regarded as unjust and injurious. Were  
such care shown in the due limitation of  
the food supplies of the bulk of the com-  
munity as would secure the steady  
though slow accumulations of small cap-  
ital in the hands of the many would in  
the long run enable the working classes,  
without strikes or other undesirable in-  
terruptions of the progress of trade, to  
secure just wages—wages that they would  
no longer have occasion to make forced  
sales of their labor, as practically they do  
now so often do.

In the course of somewhat longer but  
quite measurable time intervals there  
would arise an appreciably more even dis-  
tribution of capital than at present pre-  
vails. Labor would rise in relative value,  
while in absolute value capital would at  
least not diminish, even if it did not ac-  
tually increase.—New York Journal.

**New Device for Catching Nickels.**  
A new device for catching nickels is  
just out, which as a novelty eclipses its  
competitors in weighing machines, minia-  
ture steamboats and locomotives seen  
occasionally in place of the public  
places where people congregate. This  
machine is automatic like the others, and  
consists of a stand of iron three feet high,  
supporting a square box made of wood,  
two sides being panels of glass to admit  
light, and enable people to see the thing  
work. Inside is a sort of miniature  
metal wheelbarrow, tipped at an angle of  
about forty-five degrees. At the top of  
the box, directly over the wheelbarrow,  
is a square cut hole about an inch and a  
half wide by three inches long, large  
enough to enable one to drop a five cent  
piece through into a slot below, which is  
between the two handles of the barrow  
and about a quarter of an inch in width.  
If the person is careful to see the thing  
hole at the top and dropped so as to fall  
into the slot, the owner will see it roll  
into a little receptacle on the outside of  
the box opposite the end of the barrow,  
closely followed by another five cent  
piece, which is his prize, besides getting  
his first one back. Should it again be  
tried and the nickel strike the edges of  
the opening, which is about three or four  
times its thickness, of course it goes into  
the lower part of the inside of the box,  
and thus adds to the treasury of the owner  
of the machine.—New York Evening  
Sun.

**How the Stage Pays.**  
Even in the lowest ranks of stage work  
the pay is sufficient to live on comfortably  
and allow a margin for dress and saving.  
A chorus singer will earn \$15 a week,  
where a governess will earn barely \$4  
and a pupil \$8 or \$9. On the stage  
a girl or young woman has the hope of  
getting or making a fortune; and, above  
all, she finds herself among people who  
are willing to receive her with open arms  
of purse or cash. All are brothers and  
sisters, and it is with her and her alone  
whether her new family shall respect and  
look up to her or pass her down sadly to  
those poor silly ones who have missed the  
glitter of their aim and sacrificed all for  
a short life of foolish merriment. No  
wonder that poor girls of the better  
classes go on the stage when they see  
how much is to be done there, and then  
regard dispassionately the few other  
modes of earning a livelihood.—Actress in  
Lippincott's Magazine.

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The Milk offered is warranted perfectly pure, and is from imported Jersey Cows.  
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other Milk sold. For Invalids and children it is recommended by all physicians.  
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the milk.  
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bottle being filled to the stopper, and the bottles are kept ice in warm weather  
delivered.  
4th. Its flavor is better, because the air has no chance to act upon it, and be-  
cause it is absolutely free from the metallic flavor often noticed in milk transported  
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